



*From the Pastor*



### **"God Bless ...AND RENEW... America!"**

It seems one can hardly watch the television anymore without being bombarded by profanity, sexually explicit content, or barely clothed women prancing around – and that's just the commercials! Is it any wonder why sexual morality in our culture has gone so far astray? When I was growing up, I wouldn't have imagined the filth that is shown regularly on broadcast television today. My grandmother, who was born before televisions were around, told me that it was scandalous to advertise feminine hygienic products on television! My, how times have changed! What would she say now? And not just in the media.

How about schools? When I grew up, my school day started with the pledge of allegiance to our flag. Prayer was still allowed in schools back then (or a time of silence later on), and my high school graduation opened with a prayer led by the local clergy. We didn't have condom machines in the restrooms, and immoral behavior was the exception, rather than the norm. I'm not saying that we were angels, mind you, but we knew right from wrong - and usually did what was right, even if it was out of fear and respect. Today, saying the pledge of allegiance is disapproved of in many areas. Elementary school children are forced to watch plays that portray homosexuality as a perfectly normal and acceptable lifestyle choice. Children are taught that parents who object to homosexuality or its indoctrination in our schools are divisive, intolerant, narrow-minded, bigoted,...you get the idea. And now the Boy Scouts of America are considering changing their membership policy so as to not discriminate against homosexuality. Does anyone else feel discriminated against as a heterosexual? How have we gone astray? Can anything be done to reverse this trend?

How did our nation end up at this point of moral decay? The answer, quite simply, is slowly and steadily. In the book, *The Frog in the Kettle*, by George Barna, he explains that if you want to cook a frog you don't throw him into a boiling kettle of water. Instead, you let him swim in some lukewarm water and gradually turn up the heat until it boils, and he cooks. He doesn't even know he is in trouble until it's too late. America is in "hot water" due to a long and steady increase in heat! The moral decline in America did not happen overnight. If it had, there would have been a huge outcry. It simply would not have happened. Our culture would have rejected the change. But it didn't happen overnight. It has taken decades, of which most of us are witnesses! Each moral concession made was barely noticed with the passage of time, at least by the majority. That is how we've ended up here. But we can do something about it. And we must! Now!

Are you registered to vote? If not, you should register right away. It is important for Christians to be informed of the issues and candidates, and to make your voices heard. We can make changes by making our voices heard at the polls. This is true for national elections right down to school district issues. Christians are behind the curve on advocacy issues. Other groups aren't. Unfortunately, there's a double standard in this country. Homosexual and Pro-Choice advocacy groups, for example, are accepted readily into the mainstream, and their advocacy groups are even respected. When the Moral Majority or the Christian Coalition are mentioned in the media, they are often lumped into the pejorative "Christian Right", which is practically spat out of the mouths of media pundits and labeled as intolerant and judgmental. We have a voice, and we have the right – and duty – to make our voices heard.

Much more importantly we have to live our own lives in Christ morally and be the flesh and blood testimonies of our Lord to others around us. We need to take up our crosses and follow Him. We need to share how Jesus took up His cross for all and has redeemed mankind from sin, death and eternal condemnation. So, when we fall short of living as He wills, we can repent of our sins and be forgiven. It is only by God's grace that we are saved! And, "in view of God's mercy, we are to offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God... We are not to conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds." (Romans 12:1-2)

Yes, our nation is in a moral decline. This decline is still progressing. It is up to us as committed and concerned Christians to take an active role in changing this direction and taking a firm stand on our faith and beliefs! God has called on us to contend for the faith. That is not only in the political arena but in every nook and cranny of daily life! Let us pray for God's renewing and transforming blessing on culture and nation. May God use us to be the salt of the earth and lights in the world, that those in darkness might see our faith and good works, be drawn to the light of faith, and praise our Father in heaven!

Pastor Dennis Krueger



**Troop 210 E-Waste, clothing & shoes recycling event**  
**Saturday, June 29 in the church parking lot**  
**8-4 pm**

### The Problem of Evil; Part 2

In my last column, I laid out the problem of evil and began a response to those that would challenge the existence of God based on the problem. Let's now conclude our thoughts on the problem of evil.

British philosopher and atheist Bertrand Russell once commented, "No one can believe in a good God if they've sat at the bedside of a dying child." This rejoinder had very strong rhetorical power, and the challenge was used successfully for years until the Christian philosopher William Lane Craig asked the obvious question. What is the atheist Bertrand Russell going to say to the dying child? What does his world view allow him? Sorry kid, tuff luck? That's the way it goes? In the grand scheme of things, your suffering is pointless? It seems that while the Christian world view offers comfort, hope of healing in this life, and surety of healing in the next, the non-believer has no words of comfort to offer anyone. And let's face it; it's not just dying children that must face this problem. It's a surety for all who walk the earth that one day we will perish.

Part of the problem is the atheist's expectation that God's sole purpose is to provide for and keep safe his human "pets." We are not God's pets! This view assumes that God's purpose for this earth is to make us all happy and pain free. Under this view, God would fail the test to be sure. But I think the more accurate understanding of God's purpose for this world is to work things so the most people possible will come to a saving faith in Christ. The burden here is for the challenger to show that God could have made a world with less pain, suffering and evil that would have allowed more people to come to that saving faith. They are not going to be able to do that, and as I said in a previous column, this is why most serious philosophers, even atheist ones, no longer consider the logical problem of evil to be a strike against Christianity.

This leads me into my next point, that the problem of evil doesn't take into account God's justice and mercy. When the non-believer complains about the problem of evil, she is not taking into account the full nature of God. God's justice does not take place solely in this world alone. There is punishment for evil in the next life. The atheist is simply not in a position to determine that evil is going unpunished, or that evil deeds were not covered by Christ's atonement on the cross. You see, the Christian world view not only explains why there is evil (the free will of men), but offers a solution to the problem (justice for those that deserve it, mercy for those who will accept it).

Now, they may complain that God should stop evil before it happens, and God does do this according to His will at times of His choosing. But we must keep in mind that God works all things for His divine purpose. Only God is in a position to know the final outcome of all events. The burden is therefore on the atheist to show that no possible good can come from the evil actions God allows. That is a heavy burden, and one she cannot possibly prove.

In conclusion, evil is everyone's problem, not just Christians. All world views must account for it, offer good reasons why it exists, and propose a solution to the problem. Once we acknowledge that the problem actually exists (as the atheist does by raising the challenge), we must look at which world view has the most explanatory power in dealing with the problem. I think we have shown without a doubt that the Christian world view holds up to the challenge well,

### Faith Comes By Hearing

April 10, 2013

Dear Pastor Krueger,



Thank you and your congregation so much for your gift of \$3,050.00 to the Faith Comes By Hearing Military BibleStick program.

What a blessing to know that we are providing hope and comfort to thousands of men and women in uniform who face pressures and dangers that few of us can imagine. Though we don't fully understand what they are going through, we know the One who does, and He can speak directly to their deepest needs.

A grateful Chaplain in Iraq wrote to say, "Thanks so much for the BibleSticks. As you are aware, the various missions that are associated with so many units on our multi-national base take soldiers to outlying areas, as well as off the base. I have received innumerable verbal reports from soldiers as to how these very small BibleSticks offer them encouragement in spite of the safety risks associated with their duties; their Savior is with them. It has also been an important way to ground themselves in the Scriptures when they are on convoys and reading is not an available option. The portability of these BibleSticks is definitely a win-win for our soldiers. I couldn't keep these in stock after word got out about them - so thank you again from the depths of our hearts!"

Thanks for helping to make all this possible for our troops.

A Servant of Christ,  
Morgan Jackson, Senior Vice President

and in turn the non-believer is left with no good answers as to why there is evil, and how to deal with it. Simply put, removing God from the equation doesn't solve the problem of evil; it only removes the hope of deliverance from evil.

For further reading, I would suggest "The Problem of Pain" by C.S. Lewis, or many of the fine articles at Reasonable Faith ([www.reasonablefaith.org](http://www.reasonablefaith.org)) or Stand to Reason ([www.str.org](http://www.str.org)). If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to email me at [lcmsdrew@outlook.com](mailto:lcmsdrew@outlook.com).

Your servant, Drew Covert



## Summer Program Begins June 10

This school year has flown by so quickly! Our last day of school is June 7. We will be having a promotion ceremony at 10am in the church to celebrate with our children.

The summer program begins on the 10<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to a fun summer while we learn about some animals from around the world! We also will be cleaning up the classrooms and getting ready for a fresh start in the fall.

We still have a few spaces available in our 4's class and Kindergarten for the fall so continue to spread the news to your friends, family, and neighbors about Shepherd of the Valley Preschool and Kindergarten. We will continue to use the "A Beka" curriculum, which is one of the top Christian curriculums available. We also have some changes in the works to make our school stand out among the best in Moreno Valley. It would be wonderful to have every class full by August 14 when school starts.

### Upcoming Events:

June 7 – Graduation/Promotion in the church 10:00

June 10 – Summer Program begins

June 14 – Flag Day

June 16 – Father's Day

We desperately need more space for classrooms. We have had to eliminate the 2's class and really could use a room for another 3's class. We are blessed to be full but it saddens me to be turning God's children away.

Please pray that God will continue to bless us and provide what we need.

In His Service,  
Linda Williamson, Director



June 28 - 30, 2013  
at  
Nagel's Nite Away, Big Bear

Retreat Theme:  
"Beyond Caterpillar Dreams"

### WOMEN'S RETREAT

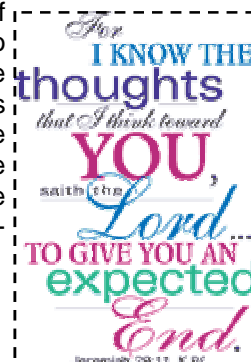
June 28-30, 2013

Nagel's Nite Away, Big Bear Lake

As the temperatures in the Valley hover between 90 - 100 degrees, don't you look forward to that beautiful "cabin," sitting on the patio, sipping a cool lemonade while looking down on Big Bear Lake? Whether you are just enjoying the beauty by yourself, or sharing moments with your sisters in Christ, I know it has always been a blessing and a refreshing time for me. We have singing, Bible study, prayer, crafts, games, good meals, free time on Saturday afternoon, lots of sharing and laughter, and some tears. Our Retreat Committee has been working in the background to insure that we will not only be physically refreshed, but also spiritually strengthened and refreshed.

I know many of you have indicated you want to attend the retreat this year, but as of our newsletter deadline, only a few registration forms have been received. Space is limited, and it would really help our committee to know how many of you plan to attend. Deadline to register will be June 9th. Please fill out a Registration Form as soon as possible and put it in the collection plate or give it to Marge or Ruby. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 684-3549.

Ruby Kraft  
Retreat Coordinator



## Power Point Schedule for June & July

8:00 am	10:45 am
6/2 One Service Only	Drew Covert
6/9 Joshua Stange	Bob Maurer
6/16 Luke Hamann	Amanda Johansen
6/23 Gerry Klepps	Abby Covert
6/30 One Service Only	Marvin Niles
7/7 Joshua Stange	Amanda Johansen
7/14 Bud Kenefick	Jim Wilson
7/21 Luke Hamann	Drew Covert
7/28 Gerry Klepps	Bob Maurer

If you need to change your schedule, or have any questions on how to run the system, contact Drew Covert at 951-525-8111 or [lcmsdrew@roadrunner.com](mailto:lcmsdrew@roadrunner.com). Thank you all for your service to our Church and our Lord!



### Upcoming Cursillo Weekends

Men's Weekend - July 18-21  
Women's Weekend - July 25-28

If you'd like more information about Cursillo, speak with any of Shepherd's cursillistas:

Pastor Dennis, Pastor Allen,  
Larry & Marlene Alexander,  
Marge Clark, Erin Ennis,  
Bob & Carole Johansen,  
Jerry & Sue Anna Schatz.  
Or go to [www.lcsocal.org](http://www.lcsocal.org)







## QUILTING FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Hello everyone from the quilting group. We are at work full time again with many projects going. We need help with donations of material for the baby quilts for the NICU at Parkview Hospital that we are making. Please keep them in mind when out fabric shopping. Be sure to tell me that your donation is for the baby quilts so it will be kept separate from the LWR materials. We reserve the donated money from the cans, etc. for the LWR quilts and kits so we depend on your donation of fabric for the baby quilts.

Please pray for Eric and Dee Tourtillott who are members of our quilting group. We ask the Lord to heal Dee. Both Eric and Dee have helped sew tops and in the past couple years when Dee's health problems came along they have been bringing material and items from their family members. They also recycle cans and buy material for us which is so helpful.

We would like to thank Marge for the threads to tie quilts and thank Janean Hamann for her donation of fabric.

If you would like to join us please come on the 4th Saturday. of each month, except November and December to the fellowship hall from 9:00 am until noon. We take time to have a devotion and food and visit with our wonderful group. If you want more information call Linda Olson 276-0373. Thank you for your help and support and may God richly bless all of you.

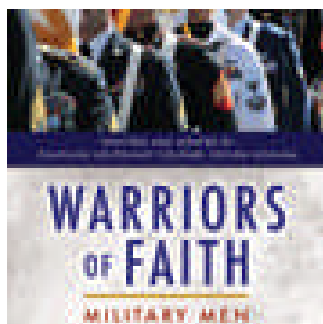
## BOUÏIQUE NEWS



Hi everyone!

Just to let you know that we are in our planning mode now for the Boutique. It will be Saturday, November 2nd from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. We are looking for new crafting ideas for our workshops and would love any input. Perhaps you would consider coming to a workshop to show us how to make your craft. We always have a lot of fun and fellowship at our workshops. Our first one will be July 13, from 9 a.m. - Noon. Also we have had suggestions coming in for where our fundraiser money might be spent. If you have something in mind and would like to write a note and drop it by the office that would be helpful. Remember you are always welcomed to join our meeting if you would like to present something. Thank you for all of your involvement. It truly is a blessing. If you have a question please call Marina Bromar 301-3598.

Love in Christ, The Boutique Committee



The Knights of the Holy Spirit will next meet on June 8 at 9:00 am. The present study is called "Warriors of Faith. Service members of the United States Armed Forces are met with challenges on and off the battlefield. Warriors of Faith -- Military Men, a Men's Net Work Bible study written especially for these servicemen and women, past and present, explores the issues of anger, grief, guilt, forgiveness and love, as they impact the lives of those who have served, or are now serving, their country. This is a five part study, covering topics that include: Anger, Guilt and Forgiveness, Grief, and Love. This month we cover the Grief factor in Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. We invite you to attend and bring a friend. We have been having some great discussions!



**Congratulations, Graduates!** Congratulations and God's blessings to our members and friends graduating this Spring & Summer 2013:

### From College/University:

Paul Biber graduating from Concordia, St. Louis with doctoral degree

Chrisanthy Kohn from Le Tourneau University in Longview, TX  
John Reed from UCR with MS in Mechanical Engineering

### From Jr. College:

Cody, Rachel, & Ryan Schatz to Northern Arizona University

### From High School:

Wyatt Berringer, Class Valedictorian from Calvary Christian School, will attend Cal Poly Pomona

Michelle Schatz, will attend Northern Arizona University  
Malcolm Seabrooks from Valley View, will attend Clark Atlanta University

### From Middle School:

Josh Hamann promoted to Canyon Springs  
Johnathan McFarland promoted to Valley View

### Elementary School:

Courtney Hamann promoted to Palm  
Samuel Kennedy from North Ridge  
Emily McBride promoted to Palm



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**Date: July 15 - 19th**

**Place: Shepherd of the Valley**

**Time: 3:00 - 6:00 pm**

### You're Invited!

Dear Friend,

Welcome to this year's Vacation Bible School, ***Adventures on Promise Island***—where kids discover God's lifesaving love!

Each day on Promise Island, kids from pre-school through 6th grade will have fun at Lifeguard Lagoon, create crafts with a purpose at Project Pointe, enjoy snacks at the Coconut Café, and play games at Fun Time Falls! On Friday, they will be able to play on the water slides, enjoy ice cream and a family cook out! And, through it all, they'll come to realize that God's promises are for them too!

Each day kids will experience the powerful promises of God and be challenged to live lives confident that God will keep His promises! Of course, we need a lot of help with the activity centers, so if you know a high school student or older, along with any adults who can assist, please sign up along with your children. Your kids won't want to miss this exciting VBS program! Sign them up for Promise Island!

Contact: Church office @ 924-4688 or Carol Maurer @ 243-6145 to register children or to volunteer.



### **Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church** **and School**

### **American Red Cross Blood Drive**

**Friday June 21st 2013**

**1:00pm to 7:00pm**

**In the Fellowship Hall**



To schedule an appointment please contact Marge at 951-924-4688 or your Red Cross Representative **Alan (909) 276-8456** or make your own appointment online at **redcrossblood.org** and use sponsor code: **SVLC**

**Walk-Ins Welcome**

All presenting donors will receive 2 tickers to a LA Galaxy game (\$20 total processing fee), and 2 tickets to the Laugh Factory

## THE MORENO VALLEY MASTER CHORALE PRESENTS:

"Ageless Americana Music" directed by Dr. Viorel Gheorghe and featuring their student interns, the North Ridge Elementary Prime Time Singers, and soloists: Anna Giles, Stephanie Steele, Beth Wilson, and Samuel Walker. This performance will be at Shepherd of the Valley on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4 pm. Tickets are available at the door: \$15 Adult / \$10 Seniors, Students, Children (5+). Contact Ruth at 951-485-8414 for more information.



I want to thank all my choir members for their dedicated service. You all are wonderful and I am blessed to be a part of the team! Have a great and restful summer. See you in the Fall. Thank you for praising our Lord with the gift of music!

Love in Christ, Chris :)

## Joseph Project - Community (Citywide) Food Bank



Shepherd is working with other churches in Moreno Valley with this community food bank that provides food for the needy every Thursday from a distribution center at the Koinonia Evangelistic Center, 21866 Brill Rd., Moreno Valley (951-867-3050). Volunteers are needed to help out with distribution, sorting, clean up, etc. at the center. Contributions to the Joseph Project will be gratefully accepted through Shepherd. Please pray for



Being an LCEF investor means providing the dollars needed to fund loans for churches, schools and ministries within the LCMS. Your investment also provides money for housing loans for our pastors and teachers. Why not talk to your congregation representative, Larry Alexander, today for more information about the ministry of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. You can also get more information by calling 1-800-843-5233.



## JOIN IN THE CHALLENGE

This is a plea that you help build the Prayer Army we need so badly. Join us in choosing a time (maybe even 10 or 15 minutes) of any day of the week that is best for you individually and lift your silent (or loud) voices to the Lord. Ask for His touch on Shepherd, our Pastor, the members of our congregation, our school, and our community. His promise is clear - if His people gather together in prayer, He will hear our prayers. Let's do it!



## THE LUTHERAN HOUR

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"The Lutheran Hour" and other Lutheran Hour Ministry broadcasts can be heard on KKLA Radio 99.5 FM and KPRO 1570 AM. Check out lhm.org or the radio station's website to find dates and times of broadcasts. You can also listen the programs directly from the LHM website [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org).



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## NEEDED FOR CRAFT PROJECTS:



Old cds & cases, Greeting card fronts, Laundry soap scoops, Film containers,

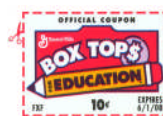
Powdered drink mix cans, Magazines, Plastic baby food containers  
Prescription bottles (small)  
Candy boxes, Advertising magnets  
Small bottles, containers, boxes  
Empty thread spools (wood or plastic)  
Tins (from band aids, Altoids, tea, etc.)  
Starbucks-type bottles with lids and carton

Bring to the church or office. These items are made into craft items and given to the cancer patients at the County Regional Hospital. Thank you each and everyone for your help.



**Thursdays at 9:30 AM  
In the Fellowship Hall  
Presented by Suzy Langhorne  
Certified Instructor  
FREE! Please join us.**

## SAVE BOX TOPS FOR OUR SCHOOL!



Specially marked box tops are worth \$.10 each when redeemed from Box Tops for Education. Encourage friends & family, near & far to help, too. Thanks for taking the time to help our school.

## SCRIP AVAILABLE!

We have scrip available for Staters Bros. Stop by the SCRIP table after services or at the school during the week.

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# *The Shepherd's Staff*

**WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES: Sunday: 8:00 & 10:45 AM**  
**5th Sunday of the month - One service only at 9:30 AM**

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*"Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." — Francis of Assisi*

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DENNIS KRUEGER, SENIOR PASTOR  
RON KRAFT, EMERITUS PASTOR  
LINDA WILLIAMSON, SCHOOL DIRECTOR**

## June 2013



**The Meyer Minute from May 15, 2013**

by Dr. Paul Meyer, President, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

**"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt.11:28)**

So when you're tired, too much to do and not enough time to do it, and worst of all, you're feeling guilty because you can't get it all done, that's the way you were raised, then lift the burden off your heart by hearing, "Come unto Me."

When you're sad for whatever reason, in grief, in dejection, feeling sorry for yourself, and when you're convinced nobody cares, maybe no one does but Jesus does. When He calls God's children to Himself, He puts His hand on you, on you, and blesses you. "Come unto Me."

When you're fearful, anxious, worried... Why are people so uncaring? Why do they wave off my anxiety by saying, "It's wrong to worry"? When you can't simply be happy, the One who is the same, yesterday, today and forever sees the outcome of the problem that worries you. He'll work it for your good. "Come unto Me."

When things are going well, so well that you don't feel a pressing need to hide yourself in the Rock of Ages, when joy and bliss, when contentment and satisfaction, a sense of being accepted and loved are yours... then remember Who gave this pleasant season to you and heed this truth, "prone to wander, Lord I feel it; prone to leave the God I love." "Come unto Me."

"Come unto Me, ye weary, and I will give you rest."  
O blessed voice of Jesus, which comes to hearts oppressed!  
It tells of benediction, of pardon, grace, and peace,  
Of joy that hath no ending, of love that cannot cease."